

Members

Rep. Robert Bischoff, Chairperson
Rep. Terry Goodin
Rep. Phyllis Pond
Rep. William Ruppel
Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. David Ford
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. James Lewis



INDIANA STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Committee

Authority: IC 15-1-1.5-4

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date:	October 29, 2001
Meeting Time:	1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place:	Board Room, Administration Building, Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th Street,
Meeting City:	Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number:	4

Members Present: Rep. Robert Bischoff, Chairperson; Rep. William Ruppel; Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. David Ford; Sen. James Lewis.

Members Absent: Rep. Terry Goodin; Rep. Phyllis Pond; Sen. Allie Craycraft.

Chairperson Bischoff called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Indiana State Fair Commission

William Stinson, Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair, gave the Committee copies of Crowe Chizek's Consultant's Report (see Exhibit A). The Report gives a breakdown of the financing plans for planned renovations to the West Pavilion (Cattle Barn) in 2002, and the Draft Horse Barn in 2004. As stated at the October 18, 2001 meeting, the Indiana

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

State Fair Commission has plans to incur new debt for these improvements, while still paying off an older bond issue. (There are several financing options, as shown on page 2 of the Exhibit.) In response to a question from Senator Lewis, Mark Hindsley, Controller for the Indiana State Fair, stated that the refinancing interest rate would be a graduated rate from 5.3% to 5.5%.

Representative Ruppel moved, with Senator Ford seconding, that the Indiana State Fair Committee supports the Indiana State Fair Commission in continuing with its plan of financing and program proposals as set forth in the Fairgrounds 2000 capital improvement renovation plan. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. In answer to a question from Senator Lewis, Mr. Stinson replied that bonds do not have to be backed by the General Assembly, but must be backed by the Indiana State Fair Commission.

Mr. Stinson informed the Committee that British Petroleum has agreed to pay \$300,000 for a 0.9 acre lot across from the Fairgrounds, part of a tract that the Fairgrounds acquired earlier in the year when a hotel was purchased. British Petroleum will level the existing gas station and erect a convenience store and gas station on the lot. The demolition of the hotel cost about \$160,000 and the City of Indianapolis contributed close to \$100,000 for the project. Senator Ford advised Mr. Stinson to clarify the liability of the parties to the sale of the property in the event there are unexpected underground obstructions, especially if those obstructions span both sections of the property. Senator Ford was aware that the same concern had come up in the parking lot addition to the Gene Stratton Porter Memorial state property in his district.

2. Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage

Betsy Kranz, Executive Director of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (The Barn), told the Committee that the Barn is planning for next year's projects and budget. It is continuing to present educational programs.

Mr. Stinson told the Committee that there are new members on both the Indiana State Fair Board and the Indiana State Fair Commission, and that the new Indiana State Fair Board president is Terry Hoffman, from Jasper, Indiana. Representative Ruppel asked that the Committee be sent the names of the members of the new Board and Commission.

There being no more business before the Committee, Chairperson Bischoff adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m.